self-same nerves of sensation. The possibility of pleasure
therefore depends on the possibility of pa'm.
Yet again, pain has been our great teacher, teacher of
agriculture, commerce, literature, art and science. Had it
not been for pain and the restless desire to prevent or remove it,
there wo aid have been no cultivation of the mind, no dis-
coveries of stored-up treasures in the bowels of the earth,
no reading of the wonderful books of Nature which are
spread out before us. Pain is not only the parent of the
fortitude of endurance but of the men's heroic rushing into
danger—rushing deliberately with their eyes wide open—
into the infection of fatal disease, into the perils of drowning
or into the tortures of fire, to rescue the poor bodies of their
fellow-men in the, hour of mortal struggle ; yes, not merely
for the beloved wife and children or friends but for strangers
whose very names were unknown. Above all, pain is the
parent of sympathy. The saying that one touch of sorrow
makes the whole world akin is all bat literally true and this,
our sweetest virtue, would have been impossible and
unknown in a world from which pain and sorrow were

excluded. One remarkable fact in the experience of almost
all is that those aigels of mercy who dedicate their life to
nurse the sick and alleviate the suffering of their fellow
beings seem never to have their faith in God shaken
by the misery they witness, but are always full of the assur-
ance of the divine love and seem to see God right through
the travail and the anguish.
Now, in looking abroad on the pains of the world, we
find by far the greatest part arises through the misuse of our
freedom -of will, through our action in direct disobedience
to moral law. The greatest and worst of human sufferings
have been caused by selfishness, by excessive or unlawful
indulgence of appetite, by ambition, by covetousness and
by direct cruelty. There is no ferocious beast of prey com-
parable to the human beast, when he is swayed by selfishness,